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ONEG FOLDING FURNITURE

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Marginal Column

By Cecil Spriggs

THERE have been indications recently that the highest quarters in the Roman Church are at present deeply concerned about the presentation of Church opinions on crucial political issues. Statements from the Vatican at various levels suggest an urgent desire to disclaim any supposed obligation of the Holy See to take sides in present international and national struggles. First of all, there is an evident anxiety to disavow the Roman Church from any political alliance in the international field. The first sign of this came from the Pope, who last Christmas protested against the "supremely unjust" accusation that he desired war and was cooperating for that end with "imperialist" Powers who were relying more upon murderous weapons than upon the realization of justice. This was a most guarded expression and the word "imperialist" was in the official text put between inverted commas. Shortly afterwards it was much noticed that General Eisenhower when visiting Rome on his Atlantic Command business did not have an audience with the Pope.

THE Pope's statement was followed by an interpretation in a Rome paper with good Vatican contacts, which gave the distinct impression of a certain swerve in Vatican policy. Then came some careful utterances by a very important Vatican prelate, Mgr. Montini, and some fairly incoherent articles on peace in the official paper "Osservatore Romano." The purpose of all this was summed up by the Rome paper already mentioned in this way: "The struggle against Communism as an idea cannot be won by armed conflict." Since then there have been further articles in the "Osservatore Romano" which cautiously indicate sympathy with President Truman in his controversy with General MacArthur.

NOW there have come manifestations of a somewhat similar position on the Vatican's internal policy in Italy. A week ago, the Pope himself made a statement on the political activity of church organizations in Italy. Catholic Action, the great organization of the Italian laity, probably far more powerful than corresponding bodies in other Catholic countries, was holding its General Assembly in Rome. The Pope took occasion to remind the faithful that he was bound by the Concordat agreement between the Vatican and Italian Government — (which his predecessor entered into with Mussolini) not to allow Catholic Action to become an organ of any political party. Naturally the only party which at present could come into question would be the Christian Democratic Party. At the general elections in 1948 much of the propaganda of the Government front was played by the so-called Christian Committees, an organization created by Dr. Luigi Gedda, a highly dynamic doctor of medicine, who is vice-president of Catholic Action and supposedly a very close counsellor of the Pope. The Christian Committees' propaganda, which is of American type and popularly believed to be American-financed, still makes its appearance at crucial moments such as his refusal or acquiescence in the Atlantic Pact policy. It now remains to be seen whether Gedda, who does not belong to the Christian Democratic Party and appears to stand definitely to the right of De Gasperi (though he preaches an ardent social programme), will come out strengthened or weakened by what should perhaps be called the Vatican's "new look" rather than its new "line."

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Ben Gurion Ends Strong Move For Aid to Israel

By Ted R. Lurie

LOS ANGELES, Saturday. — Having concluded his bond-selling tour, Mr. Ben Gurion is flying to Chicago at dusk tonight, where he will address a national U.J.A. conference tomorrow.

His long stopover in Chicago is expected to allay some U.J.A. criticism that five Israeli Ministers are touring for bonds but are not participating in the U.J.A. campaign — one of the four points of Israel's economic programme.

It is estimated that all four will raise a total of \$175m. for Israel this year and this phenomenal result is attributed largely to the vision and imagination of the planners at the Jerusalem conference last summer. Mr. Ben Gurion's role in inspiring this programme and in lending his presence and his dynamic, successful personality for its successful implementation, is clear enough everywhere.

Down town Los Angeles streets were festooned with "Welcome" banners and theatre marquees blazed his name in lights for Thursday's motorcade. Mr. Ben Gurion standing, waving, stretched up.

Gift for Truman

WASHINGTON, Saturday (UP). — Volume 13 of Ben Yehuda's Thesaurus of the Hebrew Language, dedicated to President Truman, was received at the State Department yesterday by Mr. John Simons, Chief of Protocol, on behalf of President Truman.

The presentation was made by Mr. Ehud Ben Yehuda, son of the lexicographer. The volume is dedicated to the President as the "first to grant recognition to the State of Israel, and to his generous people and blessed country."

seemingly trying to reach the cheering spectators in the top-story windows. The applause and shouts of Hallel, Shalom, and Yehi Ben Gurion, felt even warmer in Los Angeles than in the previous cities which he visited.

The speeches by mayors and governors, hailing Israel as a bastion of democracy in the Middle East and America's friend, contributed to the overall public relations and success of the tour. It is all measurable against the State Department's hostile move in the Security Council, but it is hoped that this is merely a temporary setback while the impression created by the Prime Minister in both Washington official circles and amid the broad public of millions of Americans, who in the last three weeks have been vividly aware of the presence of the representative of a free and friendly democracy, will prove lasting.

California's Lieutenant Governor's declaration at the Hollywood Bowl meeting where the picturesque Hollywood scene was breathtaking that "Israel hasn't failed America and America won't fail Israel," remains on record with dozens of similar declarations of the past weeks which must be translated into practical moves. For example Truman's economic aid programme includes \$25m. for Israel out of \$125m. for the Middle East, compared with the State Department's original \$900,000 to Israel.

While Israel is continuing to press the original request for \$100m. nevertheless the \$25m. plus an undetermined sum for military aid represents a considerable achievement politically.

Mr. Ben Gurion is enjoying a short rest in California's beautiful climate and is indulging in book-buying, too, relaxing after grueling cross-country hopping while the bond office in New York is reaching commitments now past \$50m. and hopeful to reach \$80m. before Mr. Ben Gurion's return.

(See Page 1, P. 2)

Shapiro Back From United States

Mr. M. Shapiro, the Minister of the Interior, and Hapoel Hamizrachi leader, who returned from America on Friday, told THE POST yesterday that he would decide today whether to accept his appointment to the three-man Ministerial Committee chosen by the Cabinet on Thursday to investigate the material to be submitted by the police on the alleged plot to sabotage the Knesset, and on the application of the emergency regulations in handling the suspects.

Meanwhile, two more persons arrested under suspicion of membership in the Knesset Committee were released in Jerusalem on Friday. One of them was Menachem Levi, who had given himself up when he learned the police were searching for him.

The Acting Prime Minister

Mr. Sharet, said President Weizmann at Rehovot on Friday.

Knesset Action Asked On Zealots' Charges

Knesset action to "impeach" the Acting Defence Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharet, and the Police Minister, Mr. Behor Shitreet, in connection with the alleged ill-treatment of the League of Zealots' detainees was demanded on Friday by the Religious Bloc member, Dr. Meir D. Levinstein. He wired the Speaker, Mr. Y. Sprinzak, urging that his proposals be tabled for urgent action in the House next Thursday.

Mr. Levinstein also proposed Knesset regulations instructing the Attorney General to try policemen who had abused detainees for "crimes against humanity" and calling for the closing of the Jalameh camp.

Abdullah Cuts Short State Visit

Unexpectedly cutting short his proposed three-week tour of Turkey, King Abdullah is due to return to his capital today, NEAHS reports.

Reliable sources stated last night that the general feeling in Amman was that the King's return, after only ten days in Turkey, was closely connected with developments in Jordan following the Emir Taha's attack on Glubb Pasha.

Jordan Celebrates

Jordan celebrated the fifth anniversary of its independence, and the coronation of King Abdullah, on Friday. All government offices and schools were closed, A.N.A. reports from Amman.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

A U.S. high level source expressed surprise at the Arab Security Pact would "undoubtedly" weaken the Arab front and its military strategy.

Myerson Coming For Husband's Funeral

Mrs. Golda Myerson, the Minister of Labour, has cut short her visit to America and will return to Tel Aviv tomorrow to attend the funeral of her husband, Mr. Meir Myerson, who died on Friday. Mr. Myerson, who was associated with Soli Boneh was 55.

Mrs. Myerson, who is returning by El Al, will be accompanied by her son and daughter-in-law. The Minister is not yet fully recovered from an accident in St. Louis, where she fell and dislocated a shoulder.

In spite of the accident, she continued her scheduled programme. She had also agreed to address six more meetings during the next four days which now have been cancelled. Mrs. Myerson's sister in the United States recently underwent a most serious operation and it is realized here that Mrs. Myerson has been working under immense strain.

Syrians Seek to Halt Huleh Drainage

NEW YORK, Saturday (UP). — Syria asked the Security Council on Thursday night "to ensure that Israel halt the swamp drainage work throughout the demilitarized zone" and not just in the disputed Arab-owned area in the Huleh. Faris el Khouri, Chief Syrian delegate to the U.N., in a letter to Security Council President Selim Sarper of Turkey, claimed that Israel's interpretation of the Council's May 18 resolution was "prejudicial to fair settlement of this problem."

In his letter, Khouri argued that the Security Council solution endorsed the ruling of the U.N. officials in the Near East that Israel should suspend the Huleh drainage project until agreement on it could be reached through the chairman of the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission.

Radio Damascus reported on Friday that the Syrian press had called on the army to take immediate action in halting the Israeli drainage activities in the Huleh area.

BAGHDAD, Saturday (Reuters). — The Iraqi Prime Minister, Nuri al-Said, declared today that Syria would at any time be given military aid in her defence against "Israeli aggression."

He told the Senate that Iraqi land and air units serving in Syria were limited only because Syria wanted them to be. If Syria asked for more planes, tanks or land forces, "we will send them immediately."

"I understand one thing, that when Arab territory is in danger Iraq must rush to its assistance without considering the rules of a collective security pact. We must cooperate to the full against our deadly enemy, Israel. We must build strong and large forces to face this enemy," he said.

He added that the absence of Jordan as an active member of the Arab Security Pact would "undoubtedly" weaken the Arab front and its military strategy.

Head of Refugee Office Assumes Post in J'lem

Mr. Holger Anderson, the Director of the new Refugee Office of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, assumed his duties in Jerusalem on Friday, shortly after his arrival on the same day. Mr. Anderson participated in a meeting of the P.C.C. yesterday, and met members of his new staff.

It is understood that the headquarters of the Refugee Office will be in the former Government House in Jerusalem which now serves as headquarters of the P.C.C. and permanent headquarters of the Truce Supervision Organization.

Under the resolution of the U.N. General Assembly of December 14, 1948, the main task of the Office will be to make the necessary arrangements for the assessment and payment of compensation for the Palestinian refugees. The office is also charged "to work out such arrangements as may be practicable" regarding the return of those refugees "who wish to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours."

A number of economic, financial, land and legal experts will advise Mr. Anderson, himself an expert on exchange of population.

Mr. Anderson is a former member of the Danish Parliament and has been a Danish representative to the U.N. General Assembly. He was one of the neutral members of the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Population between Greece and Turkey. He had the task of estimating the amounts due from both sides for the properties of the exchanged peoples. In that capacity he acted as an arbitrator.

It is not yet known whether in the case of property abandoned by the refugees, Mr. Anderson will confine himself to the technical task of evaluation of lands and other movable property, leaving the task of negotiating to the P.C.C. or whether he himself will mediate between the governments concerned.

Israel Children To Get \$100,000

FLUSHING MEADOW, Saturday (Reuters). — The U.N. Children's Emergency Fund has allocated to Israel \$100,000 of its new \$1,400,000 allocations for Child Welfare Programmes in Europe and the Middle East.

These include \$40,000 for Bulgaria; \$75,000 for Greece and \$340,000 for Yugoslavia in the Middle East, \$28,000 was allocated to Lebanon; \$51,000 to Libya; \$33,000 to Syria; and \$45,000 to Turkey for the emergency feeding of Bulgarian refugee children and mothers.

Another allocation of \$700,000 was made to provide milk for Palestine refugee mothers and children.

Israel, Jordan To Discuss Malaria

The prevalence of malaria in the no-man's-land in the Sheikh Jarrah and Damascus Gate areas of Jerusalem will be discussed tomorrow morning at a joint meeting of Israel and Jordan medical officers at Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem, "A-Diffa," the City daily, reported on Friday.

Condemned Nazis Reprieved Again By U.S. Court

LANDSBURG, Saturday (Reuters). — Less than two hours before the seven condemned Nazi war criminals were due to be hanged here on Thursday night, the State Department ordered the executions to be postponed. The men have been under sentence of death for two years.

The action followed a decision by a U.S. district court judge who issued an injunction against the U.S. authorities in Germany, declaring they had no legal authority to order the executions. Mr. Warren McGee, the Nazi lawyer, made an 11th hour bid to stay the executions when he asked the U.S. district court for the order. Judge Eastman said on Thursday that the U.S. Government must file its reply by today, when he would formally consider a new appeal to save their lives.

U.S. High Commission officials here were obviously dismayed at the news of the reprieve, but refused to say anything for the moment.

Persian Oil Dispute to Go Before Hague Court

LONDON, Saturday (Reuters). — The British Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company today took simultaneous but separate action in The Hague to place the Persian oil dispute before the International Court of Justice. It was officially emphasized that today's move does nothing to prevent settlement by direct negotiation with the Persian Government. If the Persian Government accepts the offer of negotiations made in the recent British note to Tehran, proceedings at the Hague Court can be dropped at any time.

U.N. Talks on NATO Expected; British Line on Iran Softer

By George Lichtheim, POST Correspondent

LONDON, Saturday. — The inclusion of Greece and Turkey in the Atlantic Pact is high on the list of subjects for discussion when General Bradley reaches London on June 6 for talks with Admiral Canby and British military leaders. Since he will have seen General Eisenhower and the French defence authorities before coming here, it is assumed that he will be able to say definitely whether the inclusion of Greece and Turkey has the support of France and of Allied Headquarters in Paris. There are conflicting views on this subject. Some observers suspect that the French are less enthusiastic about the project in private than they appear to be in public.

Higher Royalties For Iraq Oil

BAGHDAD, Saturday (Reuters). — The Iraqi Government has reached agreement in principle with the Iraq Petroleum Company on a new level of royalty payments. Premier Nuri al-Said told the Senate today.

Talks have been going on between the Government and the company since the beginning of this month. The Iraq Government issued a writ against the company last month claiming higher royalties. Till now the country has received the royalties on the official gold exchange rate, giving her 18-1/2 tons.

Under the new agreement, the royalties the company pays to the Iraqi Government will be pegged to the Saudi Arabian and Persian Governments by oil concessionaires in those countries.

It provides that Iraqi royalties per ton of crude oil exported will be more than those received by Saudi Arabia and not less than those received by Persia now or in the future, the Prime Minister said.

Parachutists To Mediterranean

LONDON, Saturday. — The 14th Parachute Brigade group are to go to the Mediterranean, it was announced yesterday. Their departure, expected to be by sea in the next ten days, follows worldwide speculation that they might be standing by ready to go to Persia if necessary to protect British lives and property. It is not intended, however, that they should go outside the Mediterranean area.

An air official said: "The force is part of the strategic reserve which has been building up for some time in this country and is now being sent to the area where for the moment it will be most useful."

The surprise sighting of the brigade was announced on May 14 at the Anglo-Iranian oil dispute was boiling up. The men will probably sail for the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in the warships Warrior, Triumph, and Devonshire. In Cyprus, however, a military spokesman from Headquarters said that he knew no more of their destination than what had been in wireless and press reports.

From his assertion that the 1953 concession is invalid it is inferred that the original concession of 1911 is regarded as legal.

Some six years ago it was conjectured that the Persian Government really aims to enter the oil business — as suggested by the Persian Foreign Minister, Dr. Mostafaez, in a speech in the Persian Parliament.

On the political level it is now thought here that a compromise is not excluded from Dr. Mostafaez's latest statement, despite its attempt to picture the Anglo-Iranian company as a dragon squatting on Persian oil.

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U.S. Representatives Vote Grain for India

WASHINGTON, Saturday (Reuters). — The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday voted to lend India \$180 million to buy grain and other foodstuffs. The money will buy two million tons of food grain.

The bill, which now goes to a Senate-House Conference, was passed by 385 votes to 94.

Irish Bomb In British Embassy

DUBLIN, Saturday (Reuters). — A bomb was thrown at the British Embassy in Dublin last night, but no one was injured. Leaflets found at the scene indicated that an organization called the Irish Republican Brotherhood was responsible.

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Boston Turns Out for Israel's Premier and Navy

POST Reporter

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THE law will take its course now that four men, under suspicion of being involved in a conspiracy to sabotage the Knesset, have been remanded.

THE RULE OF LAW

The case itself is now sub judice, but the constitutional implications are open to discussion. Two main questions are at issue, the relation between Knesset and Government, and the application of Emergency Regulations, both still undefined owing to the incomplete law of Israel.

The relation between Parliament and Executive—a highly sensitive point in constitutional theory—can be based on their definite separation, on the subordination of the Executive to Parliament, or on a combination of the two. A majority in the Knesset appears to favour the theory that the Executive holds its power by way of delegation and that its actions are therefore subject to directives issued by the Knesset. This system has been called "Government by Assembly," and there are precedents for it, notably in France after 1870. But even in the age of French revolutions, it was, in due course, replaced by a more workable constitution.

Similarly, democratic principles have been evoked in recent attempts to bridge the Executive beyond the normal limitations of Parliamentary control. The functions of Parliament, as generally accepted, are legislation, confirmation of the Budget, and control of the Administration, which is subject to additional checks by the Courts, not to mention public opinion. Parliamentary control is limited to special motions, to criticism at Question Time or otherwise, and it may culminate in a vote of non-confidence. It does not commonly include the right to participate in the actual work of Government Departments. It may be difficult under a modern Parliamentary regime to maintain equality between Legislative and Executive, but a certain degree of equilibrium between the two powers is essential in the public interest.

Once a Parliament is elected, it is independent of the electorate. By the same token, the Administration must be kept free from interference by Parliament, other than scrutiny or censure. Any other approach leads inevitably to "Government by Assembly," which, in the last analysis, amounts to nothing less than a new form of absolutism in the guise of democracy.

In the second issue, the application of Emergency Regulations, the Cabinet has acted in the spirit of the Knesset resolution by the appointment of a Ministerial Committee. The issue is of an essentially practical nature and ought not to be complicated by political passions. Apart from this, the question is simply whether it is still necessary to have recourse to the Regulations of 1945. The answer must be that, repellant as a system may be which allows detention without trial, the safety of the State is paramount, and there may arise situations where its protection demands extraordinary measures. Obviously, such measures should be applied only when actual danger exists, for instance, in the case of revolt, espionage, infiltration, and the like. In all other cases, the provisions of the Criminal Procedure (Arrest and Searches) Ordinance are sufficiently wide.

The public is right in insisting on a careful distinction between cases involving the safety of the State and others for which the normal process of justice suffices. Indeed, perhaps by new provisions ensuring speedy disposal, and in its legitimate desire to uphold the rule of law and to improve existing legislation, the present majority of the Knesset will no doubt see to it that, in its own ranks, practice does not fall short of precept, and that the sovereignty of Parliament does not degenerate into what Disraeli once called "organized hypocrisy."

S. Koreans Want No Peace Talks Now

SEOUL, Sunday (Reuters).—The South Korean Government today officially rejected suggestions that peace talks with the Chinese should be held before the U.N. forces obtained "a united and independent Korea."

It was Ben Gurion day in Boston from the moment the Prime Minister stepped off the chartered Pan-American clipper a fortnight ago to the enthusiastic reception at the Boston Garden the next evening.

The press featured large pictorial spreads on their 7/8 side pages. Mr. Ben Gurion's motor parade along the city's main streets, his address to the State Legislature and his presentation of the Israeli flag to the Governor of Massachusetts were among the events recorded on the pages of the Boston newspapers.

Navy's Reception

Although Mr. Ben Gurion held the centre of the stage in Boston, the others in his party were also playing their part in creating good will. Featured in the "Boston Traveller" were photos of something decidedly new for Americans—Israel's sailors and their ships. Their smart appearance and precision marching in a ticker-tape beshowered parade were favourably commented upon in the "Boston Herald."

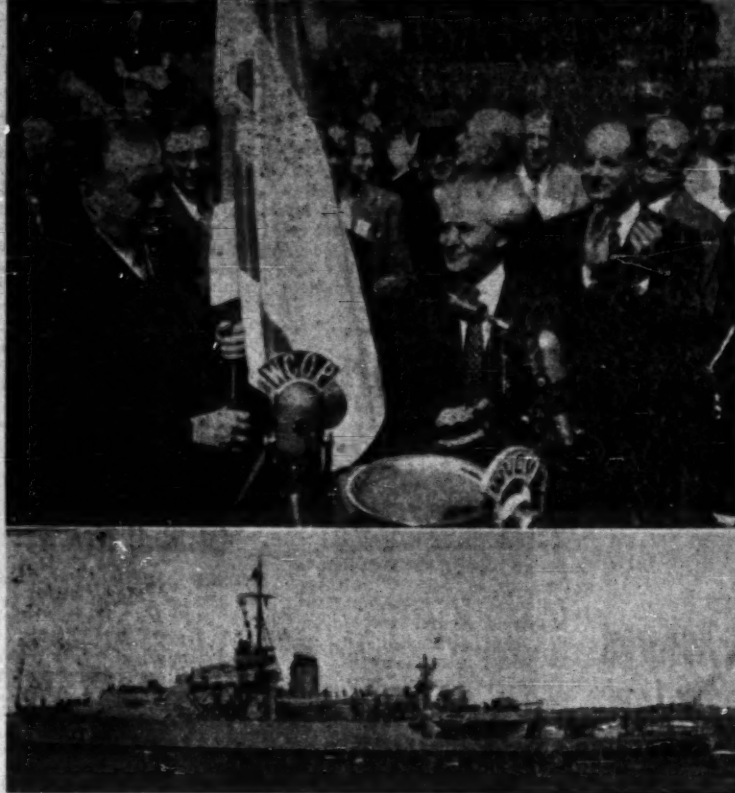
They were also photographed being shown around the town by local girls, and all of them clearly having a good time. Mrs. Ben Gurion too found a place in the press. She was the New York girl who many years ago married David Ben Gurion and in the best American tradition had obviously "made good." In one of the papers, there was a long interview in which she spoke of her husband, her children and her grandchildren like any other proud wife, mother and grandmother. Talking about the Prime Minister, she said: "I don't spoil him and I'm the real chief cook and bottle washer around the house. I'm the wife of a worker," she said. "Farmer or founder of a state, it amounts to the same thing."

MUSICAL DIARY

YOHANAN ZARAI again proved his unusual talent on Tuesday night in conducting the Kol Israel orchestra in a well chosen programme at the packed Y.M.C.A. Hall. The police had to intervene with the crowd which wanted to enter the hall. The soloist, Sonia Valina, offered a fine reading, delicate in touch and feeling, of Mozart's Piano Concerto in B flat major (K. 595). She was well accompanied by the orchestra. The very young conductor, who arrived from Hungary last year, showed strong affinity to the romantic spirit and lyrical charm of the opening piece, Mendelssohn's "Return from Abroad" overture which contrasted excellently with the Nordic landscape of Sibelius' dynamically performed "Romance for Strings." Mr. Zarai has temperament and passion which he successfully transmits to the orchestra. His thoughtful conducting in a pleasant modern vein is something reminiscent of the young Leonard Bernstein, as indicated in Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens." He strikingly demonstrated his facility and familiarity with Israeli music in his performance of Karel Salomon's attractive "Youth Symphony." The work is something of a counterpart to Britten's "Simple Symphony," with which work Yohanan, some months ago, made his successful debut in this country.

Good Team-Work
Peggy Hayman and Arish Sachs effected excellent teamwork in a broadcast on Wednesday of Beethoven's Sonata No. 4 for violin and piano and Schubert's Rondo. Brilliant. Peggy Hayman's reading was vivacious, sweet in sound and with a remarkable spiccato.

Duo Sonatas
The Israel Touring Club presented Eli Goren (violin) and Doreen Stanfield (piano) in a sonata recital last night. The



At the top (left) the Prime Minister presents an Israel flag to Paul Dever, Governor of Massachusetts, on the steps of State House. Applauding at right is Mr. Irving Rabb, Chairman of the Boston Bonds Committee, a grandson of Nahum Shkomo Rabinowitz, one of the founding fathers of Tel Aviv. At right Mr. Ben Gurion waves from his motorcade as he passes through Boston. Below the members of the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives rise to acclaim the Prime Minister. At left is the Israel Navy frigate Migvar in Boston harbour.

THE WEEK IN THE KNESSET

By Gerda Lutz

THOSE who judge the Knesset by standards of despatch, decorum and deed alone, will undoubtedly level severe criticism at the passionate outbursts which accompanied last week's attacks on the Government for its use of the emergency regulations in jailing the suspects of the Zealots' League. But there is another yardstick by which one may judge the proceedings at the Knesset. The impassioned duel between Mapai and its opponents to the right and to the left evidenced the will to ensure orderly Government, the determination to prevent unnecessary exploitation of emergency powers, and the decision to use Parliamentary prerogatives to the hilt. Although at times the tension seemed to rise to reckless heights, for once

Democracy and Threat of Terror

one lacked the sense of frustration which has consistently plagued observers of the incessant party scuffles in the House. Although the attempt to inflict maximum damage on Mapai—in this case the party was synonymous with the Government—was transparent in many of the speeches, it was evident that for once we had more than mere party manoeuvring and pre-election stuff. This feeling, shared by all, was that the Government was not merely being misused as a stick to beat Mapai. It is, undoubtedly true that the Brith Haknansim incident was a welcome fissure in the Mapai barricade, and that it was scotched up to denounce the reigning party for employing dictatorial methods. But this was not the whole story. The Knesset displayed genuine concern for the character of the State, for the freedom of the individual and for the rule of law.

Abnormal Conditions

It was forcibly brought home to the Knesset that, from a Parliamentary point of view, conditions in the House are abnormal. Under ordinary circumstances, the defeat of the Government on the application of the Defence Regulations of 1945, and their subsequent abrogation, would have constituted a vote of no-confidence and led to the fall of the Government and the formation of a new cabinet. This, of course, did not occur, because the present Government does not rely on a coalition and does not command a reliable majority in the House. Knowing this, the members of Mapai should

have tread gingerly to avoid a position in which they would be up against the solid opposition of their antagonists from both sides of the House. The Acting Prime Minister did his utmost to defend the acts of the administration, but failed to convince the Knesset that the security of the State was at stake and that administrative detention and all it implies were the only way to handle the "Sabotage" Crisis. There were many in the House who understood perfectly well that the detection of a terrorist organization in Israel is a matter of serious concern to all. Proof of the matter is that a proposal to draft substitute legislation to enable the Government to handle emergency situations was immediately introduced.

Hasty Action

Even at that point, feeling persisted that emergency powers had been too hastily invoked in this specific case. The reported refusal to allow the Minister of Social Welfare to see the detainees, for example, made a bad impression in this respect. The Knesset will have to pass a serious trial in drafting the new resolutions. It will have to show that it is up to the task of creating legislation which will preserve the rule of law while endowing the Government with special emergency powers. This is one of the chief problems confronting every democratic regime today. The problem is even more knotty in Israel, where a state of virtually permanent emergency exists, and where the tradition of exerting force against the ruling authority has not yet been extinguished. In formulating the new bill, every Member will have to visualize himself as the citizen

who will have to live under the law, and as the Government which may some day have to apply them.

The proposal that the Government be ordered to release those prisoners who cannot be brought to trial raised the fundamental question of whether the Knesset is allowed to give orders to the Government. Those who believe that the omnipotence of the Knesset is synonymous with its sovereignty are only too ready to postulate unlimited Parliamentary prerogative. These crashed head on into the principle of the division of powers between the legislature and the executive. That the problem even manifests itself in this elementary form is due to the lack of constitutional tradition and law, but equally much to the abnormal position of a Government which lacks a stable majority in Parliament.

With routine work piling up steadily—there are already 25 items carried over from last week's agenda—and with elections drawing near, the current eruption comes at an inopportune moment. But it may nonetheless have a healthy effect. It serves as a stimulant to those who are keen on avoiding the pitfalls of arbitrary Government decisions.



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SUGGESTIONS FOR PEACE

To the Editor of The POST

Sir, — In your issue of May 22, Mr. Ben Gurion was reported to have expressed his conviction at a press conference in Detroit, that "Israel will have lasting peace, both militarily and economically, when there is democracy among the Arab peoples." I venture to disagree. I believe there is more hope of peace being concluded with the existing autocratic governments than when the Arab peoples come under true democratic rule. The attitude of the Arab nations was such that none of the present feudal leaders could sponsor a settlement with Israel and survive. It follows that a representative leader will not agree to embark upon such a settlement. A striking proof of this opinion is to be found in the attitude of Trans-Jordan. King Abdullah and Prime Minister Samir Rifa'i were staunch protagonists of peace with Israel when the country was autocratically governed by the King and the British Resident. Now that there is a representative house of parliament, neither the King nor the Prime Minister dare take any action towards the realization of peace.

The feeling of animosity cherished by the Arab peoples toward the Jews is not inherent. It is the effect of war, and, notably, of the aftermath. The remedy is within the grasp of Israel. It requires a substantial change of policy, and, unless such a change is forthcoming, to anticipate the establishment of peace, in the near or remote future, would be mere wishful thinking.

Yours, etc.,
E. N. KOUSSA
Haifa, May 23.

NOISY KNESSET

To the Editor of The POST

Sir, — Knesset members after leaving the night sessions invariably continue their debates in our street. In addition, most of their cars are parked in this narrow street and the drivers signal to their passengers by honking every few minutes. Doors are banged and the whole cacophony lasts about 15 minutes during which most of the neighbourhood is awakened.

The time has come to forbid hooting altogether — Haifa should be the example.

Yours etc.
A. OREN
Jerusalem, May 23

ZIM

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